



ALEXANDRIA, VA.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1873.

The House committee on claims, in deciding favorably on the bill to compensate loyal citizens of the border States for their property taken for public use during the war, maintain that the relief granted by the bill is not of grace, but as a matter of constitutional obligation. "On the point of excluding from the benefits of the bill loyal citizens of the States which went into the 'rebellion,' the committee say that the bill is predicated upon constitutional obligation alone. Whatever obligations of a different character there may be on the part of the government to indemnify the loyal men of the South for property destroyed by military authority, their claims rest upon grounds very widely separated from the imperative duty imposed by the constitution in the case of the loyal citizens of the States not declared in insurrection. For this reason the committee will recommend to the House that whatever relief is proper be extended to the loyal men of the South to be done by a separate bill."

Mr. J. B. Stewart is confined in the prison cell of the Capitol, near the crypt, and no one is allowed to visit him except upon a card issued by the sergeant-at-arms. But he has an abundance of company, because the card is never refused. Stewart has evidently made all necessary preparations for enjoying himself as much as possible during his imprisonment. Many persons think this kind of thing had better be "abolished." An impression begins to prevail that a law will be prepared which will turn all such cases over to the courts, and prescribe a punishment for recalcitrant witnesses, and thus relieve Congress of the odium that surrounds the arbitrary incarceration of a citizen.

The Credit Mobilier investigation is still going on. The Washington Chronicle, in alluding to the frequent attempts to smother certain testimony, says: "It is perhaps unfortunate for many innocent parties, and is doubly so in view of the fact that others now resting in their graves are alluded to in the testimony. Nevertheless, as soon as possible, under the peculiar circumstances, the details of the failure of Huyek's bank and the firm of Bayne & Co., of Baltimore, will be given to the public in official form."

The House of Representatives a few days ago passed the bill removing the disabilities of John H. Reagan of Texas, Postmaster General of the Confederate States. Also, to relieve the disabilities of W. A. Graham, of North Carolina, Secretary of the Navy, under President Fillmore, D. C. De Jarnette, a former member of Congress from Virginia, and John Forsyth, minister to Mexico under President Buchanan, and now editor of the Mobile Register.

"Will Congress purify itself?" is a question asked by the Cincinnati Commercial with reference to the corruptions at the Capitol, recently brought to light. The Richmond Dispatch thinks the question would be more pointed had it been "Can Congress purify itself?" These cases of developed poison are by no means all in the body. They are rather eruptive symptoms of disease which prevails to a considerable extent."

The Banking and Currency Committee of the House of Representatives have instructed the sub-committee on specie payments to report a bill naming January 1, 1874, as a day for resuming specie payments and the redemption of legal-tenders in gold, and to further provide for issuing six per cent gold bonds to secure gold in case it should be needed for redemption purposes, and to allow free banking under the National Currency act.

There is great rejoicing over the completion of the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad. The event in Norfolk was celebrated by the firing of a national salute and a liberal display of flags from the public buildings and shipping in the harbor. Business men have looked to the completion of this great through line of railroad as the dawning of a new era of commercial enterprise for Norfolk.

The St. Mary's County Md. Beacon, says that the Southern Maryland Railroad Company is just now crowding on labor along nearly the whole line of their road, from Brandywine to Point Lookout, two heavy additional sets of hands having recently been put to work, and other large forces being daily expected.

Gen. Howard's accounts in the freedmen's bureau have passed the second audit of the treasury, and Gen. H. was found by a clerical error to be indebted to the government in the sum of \$32.54. He gave his check for this amount and his accounts are now said to be square.

There is a dispute in St. Louis between the military and civil authorities, as to the right of the former, to hold a man under arrest charged with desertion, for not declining to obey a writ of habeas corpus issued by a Court.

In spite of the heavy snows and bitter cold, that have made this winter an exceptional one in New York as well as elsewhere, the theatres of that city are said to have prospered even beyond the average of ordinary seasons.

The anniversary of the birth day of Thomas Paine, was celebrated by some of his followers, at New Rochelle, N. Y., last Wednesday. They did not, however, make much demonstration.

The newspapers formerly said, in their list of crimes—"ruined by gambling—ruined by liquor," &c., &c.—"Now it is, 'ruined by Credit Mobilier.'"

The Senate Committee on Claims has decided adversely on the petition of Major Gurden Chapin, of Virginia. The petitioner was stationed with his command at Fort Buchanan, Arizona Territory, when the war broke out, and he represents that his property in Virginia was destroyed, because he adhered to the Union, in August, he having burned it, to prevent its falling into the hands of the Confederates. The committee, in their report, say "it is sad to know that he sacrificed even his wife's clothes by his fidelity to his duty," but they think that his education at West Point, and his receiving pay when retired from duty, is sufficient compensation for any sacrifices which he may have made.

Commissioners appointed by the Governors of West Virginia, Kentucky, Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, Tennessee and Pennsylvania, who are in Washington, in charge of the Ohio river improvements, had a consultation yesterday, with Colonel Carrington, Colonel Hughes and others of the Virginia delegation favoring legislation for the benefit of the James River and Kanawha Canal. They agreed that the enterprises are kindred, and will urge early Federal legislation in behalf of both.

There was not a bushel of coal for sale in Memphis, yesterday. Many of the people were burning "oil cakes."

All is Quiet at New Orleans. The military are no longer on guard over the legislative doings.

The fly is reported to be in the wheat fields in Frederick and Clarke counties.

The Weather.

[Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.]

LEESBURG, Jan. 31.—We are now enjoying the balmy atmosphere of 16 degrees above zero. On Tuesday (28th) at midday the thermometer marked 44° in the shade on the north side of a house with no reflecting wall nearer than 210 feet, and we were induced to dub the signal office reports of very cold weather. However, at 11 p. m. the mercury had receded to 20° above, and on Wednesday morning it was down to 6° above in the same locality. My thermometer hangs about 15 feet from the ground; it did not rise above 25° during the day. At 11 p. m. on the 30th it had receded to 2° above, and on the morning of the 31st it was down to 15° below. At 10 a. m., just around the corner a thermometer 6 feet from the ground reached 10° below, and in the valley just east of the bank it receded even to 15° below. At Waterford, in close proximity to Catocin Creek, it receded to 23° below; at Wheatland Mills, on the north fork of the Catocin, to 20° below; at Lovettsville, on high table land, somewhat under the shelter of the Short Hill, it marked 14° below; and at Aldie, on the Little River turnpike, it was equally as cold. This morning it stood at about zero at 7 a. m. This is very cold. Now for reminiscences.

In December 1839, your correspondent came home from Morgan county, Virginia, and every day during the holidays he, with his brothers, had to clean the snow from extensive pavements inside and outside the yard. To his utter horror it snowed again on December 31st, and he mounted a horse and rode down the Leesburg and Georgetown turnpike to Washington, at his engineering home at 18° below zero; at 10 a. m. on the 31st of January he returned while it was yet very cold.

Again, on January 18, 1857, the mercury in Leesburg receded to 16° below zero during one of the heaviest snow storms he ever remembers to have known, unless possibly the one on the 15th of February, 1831, was an exception. I had the day before gone to housekeeping. Now this sort of weather does not often occur, and I turn from it to note the fact, which will be good news to many people, that the number of suits to February rules is fifty-seven less than those of last year, and that \$81,000 will soon be added to make things more lively. Wheat at \$2.19 in Alexandria is another good item. The farmers ought to thank God and take courage.

A Veto Message.

The President sent the following veto message to the Senate yesterday:

To the Senate of the United States: I have the honor to return herewith Senate bill No. 490, entitled an act for the relief of the East Tennessee University, without my approval. This claim, for which \$18,500 are appropriated out of the moneys of the United States, arises in part for the destruction of property by troops in time of war, and therefore the same objections attach to it as were expressed in my message of June 1, 1872, returning the Senate bill awarding \$25,000 to Milton Best. If the precedent is to be established that the Government is liable for the ravages of war, the end of demands upon the public Treasury cannot be forecast. The loyalty of the people of the section in which the University is located, under circumstances of personal danger and trials, thus entitling them to the most favorable consideration of the obligation of the Government towards them, is admitted; and nothing but regard for my duty to the whole people in opposing a principle which, if allowed, will entail great burdens upon the whole of the relief which will be afforded to a part, by allowing this bill to become a law, could induce me to return it with objections.

Recognizing the claims of these citizens to sympathy, and the most favorable consideration of their claims by the Government, I would heartily favor a donation of the amount appropriated by this bill for their relief.

U. S. GRANT.

Executive Mansion, January 29, 1873.

FILE YOUR PAPERS.—It is well worth while to save your home paper and have it bound. A few years will make it the most entertaining volume you can possess. All laws of association make it more or less a history of yourself and friends. Names, dates, facts, are preserved for you in most accessible manner. It records the history of a town or county, and is but an epitome of universal history.—*Marlboro' Gazette.*

THE GREAT INDUSTRIES OF THE UNITED STATES. Being an Historical Summary of the Origin, Growth and Perfection of the Chief Industrial Arts of this Country. By Horace Greeley, John B. Gough, Joseph B. Lyman, and other eminent writers. Octavo; over 1300 pages; Illustrated. Hartford, Conn. J. B. BURR & HYDE, Publishers.

This work is likely to become popular throughout the land. Addresses to the comprehensive of all classes of readers, and embracing a large amount of interesting facts which are nowhere else to be found gathered in one book, with many facts not heretofore recorded and published, it cannot fail to instruct the reader. It is written with an intelligent understanding of what it describes, and with due appreciation of the wants of the reading public. Certain single articles which it contains are each worth the price of the book. It discusses the bearing of each art upon the civilization of the times from the standpoint of liberality. The work belongs to the order of progressive books which have done so much for the enlightenment and liberalization of the public mind, and is well and spiritedly written. Dr. LITTLE, of this city, is the Agent for the Publishers, and is soliciting subscriptions for the work.

FROM RICHMOND.

LEGISLATIVE.

RICHMOND, Jan. 31.—In the Senate, to-day, a resolution was introduced instructing the Committee on Courts of Justice to inquire into the expediency of punishing more vigorously the crime of arson, and especially to provide that "if any burning at night, shall be a capital offense, where the lives of valuable animals and other valuable property are destroyed, and as to the propriety of authorizing the Governor and Supervisors of counties to offer rewards for the detection and apprehension of persons guilty of arson."

The following joint resolutions and bills were passed: Memorializing Congress to abolish the internal tax on all liquors made from fruits; to amend an act to authorize the trustees of Strasburg Academy, to sell a vacant lot of land; to amend the code in relation to inspection of tobacco; to amend an act to prevent the destruction of wild fow, in this State; to authorize the Washington city, Virginia, Midland and Great Southern railroad company, (the O. A. & M. R. R.) to issue bonds to provide for the payment of the bonds and debts of the Orange, Alexandria and Manassas railroad company, and of the Lynchburg and Danville railroad company, and for other purposes; to authorize the same company to extend its railroad from Alexandria to a point on the Potomac river opposite or near to or above the cities of Washington or Georgetown, and to authorize the same company to acquire and sell lands; to amend an act to prescribe the times for holding the Circuit Courts of the State; to authorize and empower the Council of the city of Richmond to increase the salaries of the judges of the Circuit, Chancery, and Hustings Courts of said city, and to amend the charter of the town of Berryville.

The assessment bill was finally ordered to engrossment, and the Senate adjourned. In the House of Delegates, Mr. Poague offered a resolution, that whereas, it is understood that the present Legislature will elect County Judges, it is unwise and inexpedient for the General Assembly to elect its own members to the office of county judge.

Mr. Riddleberger moved to amend by adding "and of circuit judge," which was agreed to, and the resolution then adopted—ayes 76, noes 38. Mr. Neale, of Alexandria, voted in the affirmative.

Bills were introduced to amend the code in relation to means of enforcing recoveries of money, &c., and to amend the act in relation to working the roads in Loudoun county.

The bill to define the jurisdiction of the County and Circuit Courts was taken up on the motion to dismiss, when

Mr. Walker moved to strike out section third and insert, "The County Courts shall have no jurisdiction of indictments for felony cases in chancery and actions at law (except actions of unlawful entry or detainer)."

Mr. Booker spoke in favor of the bill, and at the conclusion of his remarks the House adjourned.

THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM.

Immediately after the passage of the oyster bill the House proceeded to the consideration of the two bills proposing a change in our judicial system. The majority of the Committee on Courts of Justice have reported a bill which does away with the County Courts, virtually making them Courts of Probate and Police jurisdiction, and paying the judges four dollars a day while actually engaged. The minority of the committee favor the districting of counties, giving one judge three or four counties. A large majority of the House seemed in favor of the bill as reported by the majority of the committee, but to-day the opponents of any change in the system, and the friends of the minority bill combined, and succeeded in having several amendments made to the majority bill, one giving the County Judges concurrent jurisdiction with the Circuit Judges in cases involving not more than \$500. It looks now as if the bill as reported from the majority of the committee would be defeated, and that no change will be made in the judicial system. The friends of districting the counties admit that they have no prospect of passing their bill. It does seem strange that the General Assembly should hesitate, when by a change of the system some \$70,000 to \$80,000 a year could be saved to the State in the way of salaries, besides a relief from the expense of so many judges.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.

The joint committee of the Legislature on amendments to the Constitution, at a meeting last night, tabled a resolution in relation to holding biennial sessions of the Legislature; also a resolution to reduce the number of members of the body. The committee further determined that it was inexpedient to require the payment of a per capita tax of two dollars as a qualification for all voters, or to change the mode of voting to the viva voce system. The following bill was agreed upon in relation to the times of meeting of the General Assembly:

Be it enacted, &c. That section 1 of chapter 15 of the code of Virginia, as amended by an act approved November 1st, 1871, be amended and re-enacted so as to read as follows: Section 1. The General Assembly shall meet on the 1st day of January, 1874, and every year thereafter. If the first day of January of any year should be Sunday then it shall meet on the next day thereafter. It shall sit at the Capitol in the city of Richmond, but may adjourn to any other place.

This act shall be in force from and after the expiration of the present session.

OYSTER BILL.

The House of Delegates, after a week's discussion, has at length passed the bill providing for a tax on oysters. The bill has been stripped of some of its most objectionable features, but it is doubtful whether more revenue will be derived under the new than under the old bill. Members from Eastern Virginia say the bill will be very unpopular with their constituents, and may lose the Conservative party some votes. We are compelled to raise revenue from some source, so the Legislature had to run the risk of making a few Radical votes.

ASSESSMENT BILL.

The Senate is engaged on the assessment bill, and Senators have an opportunity to get rid of a little of their pent up eloquence. The time of the Senate has been, to a great extent, taken up this session by Senators indulging in the pleasure of long orations upon insignificant subjects. The most influential man who has been in the Legislature for years never was known to speak over ten minutes at a time. The present members of the General Assembly would do well to remember this.

RAILROAD WAR.

The railroad war still goes on but attracts very little attention. The opinion is general that neither a new railroad bill, or the bill proposing a free railroad law, will be considered this year, unless there should be an extra session. The regular session will be fully occupied by legitimate business. I see none of the excitement that characterized the railroad war of 1871. No money seems to be spent, and consequently lobbyists are in a despondent condition.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

In response to a resolution the Superintendent of Public Instruction has forwarded a communication to the Senate giving the number of schools and teachers for each county yet necessary to carry into successful operation the free school system in the State. He thinks about 630 more schools of twenty pupils, and 564 of fifteen pupils will be required and their cost per annum will be about \$155,075, if the schools are kept open only five months in the year.

WASTE OF TIME.

The attendance of the members of the Legislature on the meetings of that body are very irregular, and their absence frequently impedes business. Yesterday, in the House of Delegates, before the expiration of the morning hour, two motions to adjourn had to be made before a quorum could be gotten to vote on any subject. This should not be.

TAX ON CHARTERS.

The Senate has passed a bill repealing the act imposing a tax upon charters of incorporation, and a resolution has been introduced in the same body, but laid on the table, authorizing the refunding of taxes which have already been paid into the treasury on such subjects.

COUNTY JUDGES.

The Conservative party having determined in caucus to elect County Judges this winter, aspirants are already beginning to arrive, and so we may expect the button holding so prevalent during the memorable session of 1869. There will be several candidates for the judgeship of the counties of Fairfax and Alexandria, should the present system remain.

JOE JEFFERSON.

Joe Jefferson plays Rip Van Winkle here to-morrow night. He will, no doubt, have a crowded house. His receipts for the single night he performed here some weeks since were over \$1,400.

SMALLPOX.

The smallpox is abating here. There are not more than a dozen cases in the city. The decrease is attributed to the thorough vaccination.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

"To show the very age and holy of the Times"

The three men who have been arrested on the charge of murdering Mrs. Lampley, on the night of the 24th of January, in Baltimore, were yesterday taken to jail. It seems that Nicholson, who married a grand-daughter of the murdered woman, knew of the money being in her house, and attempted the robbery in connection with the other two men. It is not supposed that murder was intended, but that it was committed in the effort to stifle the screams of Mrs. Lampley.

A dispatch from Greensboro', N. C., says that the bridge on the North Carolina railroad over Deep river, near Jamestown, gave way on Thursday with a freight train, precipitating thirteen loaded cars into the river. The engine with four freight cars and the conductor's car were over safely. The engineer, seeing the bridge was giving way, gave his engine all the steam he could, and got over safely. No one was hurt. The thirteen cars were badly broken.

The argument in the Wharton trial, at Annapolis, was concluded yesterday, and the case given to the jury. At 11 o'clock last night the jury had not agreed, nor, it is said, is there any probability of their agreeing. It was stated that they stood six for conviction and six for acquittal. If they are discharged without having agreed upon a verdict, it is supposed the State's officer will enter a nolle prosequi.

The bill to amend the clause of the constitution regulating the relations of Church and State, yesterday passed to its second reading in the Lower House of the Prussian Diet, by a large majority. It was urged in support of the measure that it was justified by the attitude assumed by the heads of the Church.

In the Alabama Senate, yesterday, the Lieutenant Governor refused to put a motion to reconsider the vote of Thursday, Miller, Radical, was therefore seated, and Martin, Democrat, displaced. Edwards, a Democrat, was absent by paying off with a Radical Senator, who appeared in his seat and voted at the last moment.

The Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives yesterday decided by a majority of one to report adversely upon the bill to refund the cotton tax. The minority will make a favorable report. There are \$43,000,000 involved in this matter.

The trial of Senator Pomeroy on the charge of attempting to bribe members of the Kansas Legislature has been put off until June. He appeared before the District Court at Topeka yesterday, and gave bail in \$20,000 for his appearance at the June term of the Court.

In the matter of the trial of John R. Plater at Cambridge, Md., for the murder of his wife, the motion made by the defence for a continuance of the case was yesterday overruled by the Court. A jury was obtained.

The Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections had a private consultation yesterday, lasting three hours, over their constitutional powers in the Louisiana case. No conclusions appear to have been reached.

Two men and a woman were burned to death at Renfrew, Canada, yesterday, by a fire which destroyed four buildings.

VIRGINIA OYSTER LAW.—An important bill has just passed the Virginia House of Delegates, prescribing regulations for the oyster fisheries in this State. The bill allows hand-owners having water fronts to plant oyster oysters for their own consumption free of tax, but imposes a tax upon all oysters taken for sale, and declares that all dredgers and cangers must be licensed by the State. Oysters are prohibited from being caught with tongs in the months of June, July and August, and with dredges or scrapes from the 1st of May to the 1st of October. And it is prohibited to any one to convert oysters, by putting into lime. Non-residents of the State are prohibited from taking oysters in the Virginia waters, under any condition, but are allowed to purchase them by the following provisions: "Non-resident masters of vessels, engaged in buying and selling oysters, may, while making up their cargo, obtain a location for depositing their cargo, to be assigned by the inspectors, for which they are to pay a rent of fifty cents for every hundred bushels deposited. The inspector is required to register the vessel, and for the registration the master of the vessel is to pay a fee of two dollars. Any master of a vessel, other than vessels propelled by steam, who desire to purchase and carry oysters to market, within or without the State, is first to obtain from the inspector a license to purchase them, for which, if he wishes to carry them to market by the load or cargo, shall pay two cents per bushel therefor, estimating his vessel to carry twenty-five bushels for every one hundred cubic feet of the same, each ton of custom-house measurement, as per enrollment of said vessel, being estimated to contain one hundred cubic feet; but if he wishes to take in less than a full load or cargo then he is to pay three cents per bushel on the actual quantity. The tax of two cents is to be paid before the master shall commence to load his vessel. He may carry oysters in barrels at the rate of two cents per bushel. If he so elect, he may obtain a license for a year, by paying in advance the sum of two dollars, for every hundred cubic feet capacity of the vessel."

INGENUOUS RASCALITY.—The latest, most ingenious piece of rascality in a horse that we find up in Michigan. It was in Flint where a man discovered his barn on fire and wished to save his horse. Arriving at the stable he found a horse's head tied to the manger, and as the horse's head was in the stall, On investigation it appeared the horse had been placed there by a dead livey horse and had been placed there by the fellow who had stolen the live horse and had fired the barn, supposing the remains of the horse would be found in the ashes and the owner of the barn not dream but his horse had perished in the fire.

VIRGINIA NEWS.

About a week ago Wm. H. Harrison, a member of the 5th U. S. Artillery, was found robbed and murdered in the road near Fort Adams, it. L. He had been paid off that day and had left \$70 when he left the fort. The Winchester Virginian says it was Capt. Wm. Harrison, formerly of Co. H., 13th Va. Infantry, who went from that place to New York not long since, and for a time was in the establishment of C. B. Russ, as a salarman.

Rev. D. M. Gilbert, D. D., Pastor of the Lutheran Church in Staunton, having received an unanimous call from the Lutheran Church in Winchester on Monday night sent in his resignation to the council of his church. It was received and will be acted on by the congregation on Sunday.

The Spanish steamship Quivodo, Captain Balbo, arrived at Norfolk from Havana on Thursday. She is the first of Colonel Lamb's fortnight line direct from Norfolk to Liverpool. This in connection with the Allan Line, gives a weekly European steamer to Norfolk.

The Warren, Front Royal, Sentinel says:—"The thermometer here Wednesday night stood 15° below zero, which establishes it, beyond doubt, the coldest night this winter; and, indeed, for several winters past."

A dispatch from Baltimore to the Staunton Vindicator, says:—"The success of the friends of the Valley Railroad here is certain. The road will be under contract to Salem this spring."

The finest edifices in Staunton is about to be erected for Maj. J. J. McMahon. It is to be four stories high, built of iron and pressed brick, after the Italian style of architecture.

The Rockingham Register says that the smallpox has disappeared from that county.

Whither are We Drifting?

Nothing is starting in these frozen days. Men slipping their coffee in the morning, or lingering over the tea-table in the evening, read the bold exposures of bribery in Congress; of jobs in the Indian Bureau; of frauds on the ballot-box; of gross corruption penetrating every avenue of public life; and then drop the newspaper with the doleful remark that there is no news of importance.

Is the public conscience hardened, that it is not touched by the shameless dishonesty of men in high places? Is all sense of decency deadened or dead, that we listen patiently to the lame and halting excuses of public officers overtake in the very act of robbing the public treasury?

We have no desire to repeat a story that has been more than twice told. But here are the organs, just as ready now as before, to grind out the praises of the sordid, pointed trackers who have deluded and disgraced American citizenship. And nobody is startled, and few citizens give the matter a second thought.

Whither are we drifting? The Indian appropriation bill last year contained an item granting half a million of dollars to the Teton Sioux. Now it turns out that this is all sham; and a few people are lazily inquiring what became of the money.

Caldwell, of Kansas, bought his way to the Senatorial seat. That fact was established more than a year ago by the Kansas Legislature, which, after investigating the matter, forwarded its evidence and report to the Vice-President of the United States. A committee of the Senate was named last spring, directed to sit during the recess and authorized to send for persons and papers. That committee deliberately neglected its duties because Caldwell was wanted. Last week the regular Committee on Privileges and Elections took up the case and examined Sidney Clark, a competent witness, who testified that he himself had spent twelve or fifteen thousand dollars in a vain attempt to get to the Senate, but that Caldwell was too rich for him and had bought away his votes. He testified further that Caldwell offered to refund his (Clark's) expenses, but had failed to do so, because, as Caldwell explained, his election had cost him \$75,000, and he did not find Congress as good a place to make money as he supposed it would be. He was on the lookout, however, for railroad legislation, in the hope of squeezing something out of the corporations. Fine business for a Senator! and a fine Senate it is which permits such a man to hold his seat a year after these revelations are public property!

We have cited these cases to illustrate the depravity existing in the legislative branch of the Government—depravity which fully parallels itself without existing an effective protest from the people. We might go further and show other cases.

But of what avail are these exposures till we strike deeper and crumble the crust of selfish indifference which seems to cover the public mind? Jobbers are already at work to make money out of the centennial anniversary of our independence! If corruption stalks as it is stalked of late, our liberty in 1876 will be confined to the liberty which knaves enjoy to plunder the people. The endurance of a despotism depends on the strength of a public hang on the hand; but the life of a republic hangs on the virtue and virtue of its citizens. We may create a compromise over our independence; we may fill the air with the noise of wind instruments, including the voices of ready orators; but we can only honor the memory of the founders of the republic when we emulate the example which they set. If the exposures of venality, "following fast and following faster," do not quickly arouse the masses to action, then our day is written. We must put our houses in order to meet the fate which befell old Rome. We make no plea for party; but we beseech all good citizens to consider the dangers which confront us. Is it not time that a candidate's honesty was made the test of his fitness for public place? Let us make common cause against dishonesty wherever found, and scourge political friends and foes alike. And first of all, let us labor together to destroy the apathetic feeling, which kept a million citizens from the polls last November, and which, in all ages, has been the forerunner of absolute government. If it be true that "venal violence is the price of liberty," whither are we drifting?—*Chic. Observer.*

COLD WEATHER.—At Sparta, Wisconsin, on Wednesday the mercury had settled down to the coldest figure of forty degrees below zero; at St. Paul it marked four ten, and at Milwaukee twenty, while at Chicago, at daylight, it was down to twenty below zero, rallying up to six by ten o'clock. At Corry, Pennsylvania, "in the morning early," the temperature was at the respectable Librarian figure of thirty-six below zero, which is very good for Pennsylvania. In New York city through the day the thermometer stuck pretty steadily to ten below zero. On Tuesday night the interior of Minnesota was in lowly hope that the majority of the cold weather had left. We fear, however, that from the adjoining British province of Manitoba we shall hear, with the return of Spring, that Jack Frost has swept off pretty much the whole population during the day the thick-skinned Indians and here and there a few of the tough and wiry Canadian voyageurs, whose circulation flows through tubes of gutta serena. As far down South as Memphis, on Tuesday night, the mercury was down to four degrees above zero—the coldest night there of the season—and the drifting ice at that point in the Mississippi River was heavier than at any other time during the Winter.—*New York Herald.*

It is said that the jury in the Tweed case, in New York, stood eleven for acquittal and one for conviction.

Another Bible.

[From the New York Observer.]

During the late war a soldier brought into Woodstock, Vermont, from the South, the second volume of a valuable Bible, published in London by R. Bower, Historical Gallery, Pall Mall, and J. Pylar, No. 62, Upper Charlotte street, in 1755, in leather binding, with engravings from colored pictures by the Old Masters. The book is now in my possession, and I wish to return it to the real owner. As my paper has been successful several times in such cases, I appeal to you. There are several memoranda in the book, which may give a clue to the ownership, which I copy:

"Daniel Cawood was born on the 6th day of October, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine."

"Married on the 16th March, 1816, Mr. Daniel Cawood to Mary McFee (or McFee), by the Rev. Wm. H. Walker, at Capt. Mark Butts."

"Dr. Wm. L. Powell died Sunday, 4th day of Sept., 1853. He was a very useful man, and much beloved in this community, and is a great loss."

"What shadows are we,

And what shadows we pursue."

"The chief corner-stone of St. Paul's church was laid the 21st of June, one thousand eight hundred and seventeen, by the Masons of Lodge No. 22 of Alexandria, assisted by Brok Lodge and transient brethren. An address was delivered by the Worshipful Master of Washington Lodge No. 22, Col. Geo. Demerle, after which one by the Rev. Mr. Hawley."

"DANIEL CAWOOD."

If the owner sees this communication, and will address me at Woodstock, Windsor county Vermont, he can have the book sent to him in any way he may direct.

HENRY S. HUTCHINSON.

MR. GEO. C. WEDDERBURN, in a card dated Washington, Jan. 31, addressed to the Washington Chronicle, in reply to a communication in that paper, which claimed him as a Retrocessionist, writes:—"I called with a committee of gentlemen from Alexandria to see Mr. Shephard, who desired to know what his views were upon the subject. I did not, and I presume the gentlemen of the 'committee' did not, see Gov. Cooke, nor call upon him."

"In paying the visit I did not purpose to say anything whatever, but the remarks of one of those present was of the character to appear to place me in a false position. I, therefore, deemed it expedient to explain my views, which, in substance, were, and in fact, are:

"That, as an Alexandrian, it was my opinion that it would be a great thing for that city to be reexamined, as it required more energy and authority to enforce prosperity, and that any change would and must necessarily add to its benefit. In fact, it needed life and progressive, upon the principle of being associated with capital and vim, it would prosper, and its liabilities be assumed by its associates, and besides derive benefits from the expenditures of Government appropriations. But as a Virginian I was opposed to it, and was not a retrocessionist. I am not selfish enough to benefit myself and locality at the expense of the whole people of the State. This was what I said, what I meant, and what I repeat. I went as a spectator, and not as a member of 'the committee.'"

DEATH OF H. P. CHEW.—A painful duty it